

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAHA 00227 081109Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 /066 W

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R 080906Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1714

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USAGO FORT BUCKNER

313TH AD KADENA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: IE SHIMA USAF RANGE INCIDENT

SUMMARY: GOJ DECISION NOT TO TAKE JURISDICTION OVER THE IE

SHIMA RANGE SHOOTING INCIDENT HAS DRAWN PREDICTABLE LEFTIST

CRITICISM IN OKINAWA, SO FAR ONLY OF ROUTINE MAGNITUDE AND MAINLY

DIRECTED AT GOJ FOR ALLEGED WEAKNESS OF STANCE. LEFTISTS, HOWEVER,

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3230 C O N F I D E N T I A L

MAY WISH TO MAGNIFY THE ISSUE AND AGAIN ZERO IN ON OUR AERIAL RANGE
AS A POLITICAL ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE OKINAWAN PRESS HAS PREDICTABLY GIVEN HEAVY AND TOP
COVERAGE TO THE GOJ DECISION NOT TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION OVER THE
TWO AMERICAN AIRMEN INVOLVED IN THE IE SHIMA SHOOTING INCIDENT.
THE HEADLINE ARTICLES OUT OF TOKYO WERE FACTUAL RELATING FOREIGN
MINISTRY DIRECTOR YAMAZAKI'S TESTIMONY IN THE DIET THAT THE GOJ
DECIDED THUS BECAUSE THE CRIME WAS NOT OF AN EVIL NATURE, AND A
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PAGE 02 NAHA 00227 081109Z

CONTINUED IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVT POSITIONS WOULD BE HARM-

FUL TO US-JAPAN RELATIONS. ALSO THE US APOLOGIZED OVER THE INCIDENT, HAD UNDERTAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE, WOULD PAY COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIM, AND UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE AIRMEN. OTHER ARTICLES DESCRIBED VARIOUS LOCAL PROTESTS. GOVERNOR YARA SAID THIS CONCESSION TO THE AMERICANS VIOLATED THE PEOPLE'S WISHES. LEFTIST GROUPS EXPRESSED ALLEGED ANGER OVER THIS VIOLATION OF VICTIM'S HUMAN RIGHTS. THE NAHA CHIEF PROCURATOR IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE EXPECTS APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT OF THE AIRMEN BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

2. COMMENT: PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE IE SHIMA INCIDENT HAS BEEN ERODED OF COURSE BY THE LENGTH OF TIME SINCE IT

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3230 C O N F I D E N T I A L

HAPPENED (JULY 10, 1974), BUT LEFTIST EFFORTS TO WHIP UP EMOTION MAY BE HELPED BY WIDESPREAD CONCERN HERE OVER THE RECENT FLORES RAPE CASE. SO FAR THE FUROR OVER THE IE SHIMA DECISION SEEMS NO MORE THAN WHAT WOULD BE INEVITABLE CONSIDERING LEFTIST CONTROL OVER THE PRESS. ALSO, INDIGNATION NOW IS LESS DIRECTED AT US THAN AT THE GOJ FOR ITS SUPPOSED "WEAK ATTITUDE." WHEN NEWS GETS OUT OF THE LIMITED DISCIPLINARY ACTION WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE USAF AGAINST THE TWO AIRMEN, HOWEVER, THE LEFTISTS MAY EXPLOIT THAT TO AGAIN MOUNT ATTACKS ON OUR PRESENCE.

3. THIS FINAL DECISION ALSO ONCE AGAIN FOCUSES ATTENTION ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF OUR IMPORTANT AERIAL RANGE ON IE SHIMA. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS RECENTLY CARRIED REPORTS THAT JAPANESE AIRLINES STILL REFUSE TO EXTEND SERVICE INTO THE NEW IE SHIMA CIVIL AIRPORT ALLEGEDLY FOR FEAR OF SAFETY BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY OF THE RANGE AND BECAUSE CIVIL OPERATIONS ARE TO BE RESTRICTED TO ONLY TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS PER DAY. WITH THE FADING AWAY RECENTLY OF THE MARINE ARTILLERY RANGE ISSUE, IT IS AGAIN POSSIBLE - ALTHOUGH NOT ASSURED - THAT THE LEFTISTS MAY WISH TO TARGET HEAVILY THE IE SHIMA RANGE AS A POLITICAL ISSUE.

SYLVESTER

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